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TOWN OF DORCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



*The former Davenport House
Who owns it now, and where is it located?*

2004

2005

JANUARY

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JANUARY

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MAY

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JUNE

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DECEMBER

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JUNE

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2003

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS



**OF THE TOWN OF
DORCHESTER, N.H.**



**Year Ended
December 31, 2003**

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
Walter H. Morgan

1916 ~ 2003

**A tireless and dedicated worker to
the Town of Dorchester**



Treasurer: 1990 - 1999
Dorchester Planning Board
Mascoma School District Budget Committee

Selectmen's Report

The Dorchester Board of Selectmen have been extremely busy this year, working far and beyond the normal scope of the office. A great deal was accomplished during 2003, but just as we were able to lay one issue to rest a new more complicated one arose.

Faced with the termination of emergency fire dispatch service for that portion of Dorchester which falls within the (786) telephone exchange, the Selectmen have attended numerous meetings to explore a variety of solutions, without suffering an interruption of service. To date, no permanent solution has been arrived at. We continue to work with our District 17 Legislative Delegation, NH Emergency Management, Hanover Dispatch, Canaan Fire Department, the Town of Canaan, the Town of Rumney and Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aide Dispatch Center in our on-going attempt to provide cost effective dispatching service for the Rumney Fire Department to the northeast corner of Dorchester.

In an effort to align school district representation and legislative representation with court jurisdiction, the Selectmen effected the transfer from the Plymouth Court District to the Lebanon Court District, which required the drafting of legislation to be considered by the NH House of Representatives. Our District 17 Representatives agreed to sponsor the appropriate legislation. The Selectmen journeyed to Concord in early December to testify at the Hearings and the change became effective in January 2004.

In preparation for the State mandated Assessment Review slated for 2004, the Selectmen reviewed bids for a complete town wide revaluation of property scheduled for the spring of 2004. The decision was made to contract with the company of Earls, Nieder and Perkins, who has conducted Dorchester's annual assessment "pick-ups" for many years.

The Selectmen were forced to deal with the classification of Town roads in the fall of 2003, as they began receiving complaints regarding the public being denied the use of roads historically traveled without impediment. Although guiding

legislation is being considered at the State level, the Selectmen have adopted the following policy regarding Town roads:

All municipal highways within the Town of Dorchester, other than Class IV and V, which the town has the duty to maintain regularly (RSA 229:5), and those completely discontinued in accordance with (RSA 231:43) are classified as Class VI municipal highways.

Class VI highways includes all local highways discontinued subject to gates and bars, and all highways that have not been maintained and repaired by the town in suitable condition for travel for 5 successive years or more (RSA 229:5, VII). Class VI highways are full public highways in every sense except maintenance. Even though these roads may be "subject to gates and bars", the public is fully entitled to vialtic use and is fully subject to the municipality's authority to regulate. The public's right to use of the road once acquired by prescription, can't be lost by prescription (RSA 236:30)

The complete discontinuance of a local highway (Class IV, V, or VI) takes a vote of the legislative body (RSA 231:43). Furthermore, the burden is upon the party who asserts discontinuance to prove it by clear and satisfactory evidence.

The Selectmen, as enforcing agents for Dorchester's Land Use Regulations, have spent countless hours making sure that "set-backs" and other regulations are met before a Building Permit is issued. Building Permits were historically a courtesy notification, however, new and more stringent requirements at the State level require that State requirements be met before modifications may begin, and the only way for the town officials to assure adherence to these mandates and those of our own Land Use Regulations is through Building Permits for any and all structures. Building permits cost nothing, so before you undergo any alterations or additions to your property, please

contact us for a Building Permit application.

The Board of Selectmen were finally able to officially close out the replacement of Bridge #132/166 lost to an ice jam on April 13, 2001 with a town road. Although reimbursement from the State for 80% of the cost of project was eventually secured this year, the initial capital outlay plus the remaining 20% came from the Road Budget, causing necessary maintenance of Town roads to be shelved. We have determined that a Road Bond is the most cost effective way to implement a comprehensive and proactive road repair program.

The Town has leased a Dell desk top and lap top computer system which allows the town to access and download many State and Federal forms. With the eventual purchase of suitable soft ware, this new system will allow the Tax Collector to maintain all property tax information.

Finally, the Selectmen are undertaking a Federally required Emergency Needs Assessment, with the aid of N.H. Emergency Management. This assessment is relative to Dorchester's eligibility for Homeland Security funds and grants.

In closing, we wish to thank Road Agent, George C. Conkey II and employee Clarence Poitras for providing a mandated handicapped accessible voting booth on extremely short notice. Their efforts resulted in a comment from Grafton County Sheriff's Department inspectors; that Dorchester's polling place was one of a very few in Grafton County who met the conditions of the legislative mandate for the January 27 Primary Election.

Selectmen's Meetings for



2004



January 1, 15 & 29

February 12 & 26

March 11 & 25

April 8 & 22

May 6 & 20

June 3 & 17

July 1, 15 & 29

August 12 & 26

September 9 & 23

October 7 & 21

November 4 & 18

December 2, 16 & 30

Meetings are held at the Town Office at 6:30 p.m.

Selectmen are generally ready to meet with the
public by 7:00 p.m.

DORCHESTER TOWN OFFICERS - 2003

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robert R. Estabrook 2004 (C)

Albert John Franz 2005

John A. Cote 2006

MODERATOR

Henry L. Melanson 2004

TOWN TREASURER

Brian A. Howe 2004

Jennifer Grace, Deputy

TOWN CLERK

Brenda Howe 2004

Darlene Oaks, Deputy

TAX COLLECTOR

Nancy Drowne 2004

Brenda A. Howe, Deputy

ROAD AGENT

George C. Conkey, II 2005

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Tomas Crowley

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Jay Legg

WELFARE DIRECTOR

Alice E. Melanson

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Brenda Howe 2006

Darlene Oaks 2004

Carol Towne 2005

AUDITORS

Martha L. Walker 2004

Cindy Azotea 2004

SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST

Marilyn Pratt 2004

Christine Morgan 2004

Darlene Oaks 2006

Elizabeth "Betty" Trought

PLANNING BOARD

David Morrill 2006(C)

Linda Landry 2006

David DeVall 2005

E. James Scott 2004

Darlene Oaks 2004

John A. Cote, Slc. Rep.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

David Morrill (C)

Brian Howe

Stuart Ross

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Robert Brown 2005

Louis A. Delsart 2006

Vacant

REPRESENTATIVE TO PEMI-BAKER SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Vacant

REPRESENTATIVE TO UVLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Robert R. Estabrook

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Michael A. Landry 2007 Robert Estabrook 2006 George Conkey 2005

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Robert Pon (C)

Christine Morgan

Patricia Franz

Darlene Oaks

Linda M. Landry

Martha Walker

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Nadine A. Conkey 2005

REPRESENTATIVES TO MASCOMA HEALTH COUNCIL

Vacant

MEETING TIMES

Board of Selectmen: Every other Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Phone: 786-9476

Town Clerk: Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Selectmen's Office. Phone 786-9476

Tax Collector: Town Office
Phone: 786-9476

Planning Board: 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Selectmen's Office Phone 786-9476

Board of Adjustment: As required. Selectmen's Office

Transfer Station: Wednesday 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m (until 9/8)
Wednesday 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m (after 9/8)
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Notary Public: Select. Meetings and upon request (523-7119)
Free of charge to Dorchester Residents

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In any emergency, please call 911

F.A.S.T. Squad Canaan 911 - 448-1212
POLICE: State Police 1-800-525-5555
State Police (F-Troop) 1-271-1170
Grafton County Sheriff's Dept. 1-800-552-0393

TOWN WARRANT

The State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Dorchester on Tuesday, the 9th day of March 2004, polls to be open for voting on Article 1 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and to close not earlier than 7 o'clock in the afternoon, with action on the remaining articles to be taken commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on Saturday, March 13, 2004.

1. To choose by nonpartisan ballot all necessary Town officers for the ensuing year.
2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 (three hundred thousand dollars) for the purpose of rebuilding and paving North Dorchester Road and a portion of Bickford Woods Road; and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$300,000 (three hundred thousand dollars) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.
Principal and Interest payments to come from Highway Block Grant Funds over the next 15 years.
(2/3 ballot vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen

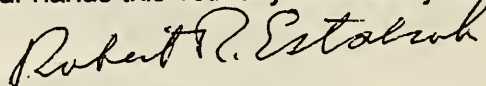
3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for a complete property tax revaluation and authorize the withdrawal of Thirty-Seven Thousand dollar (\$37,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is to come from general taxation.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of replacing the roof over the kitchen portion of the Town Hall, to upgrade the electrical service and replace the heating system of the Town Hall and to authorize the withdrawal of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose.
5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (three thousand dollars) to support a regional center in Canaan for the adult day care of elderly and handicapped persons. The center will be staffed by professionals and be maintained by the Primary Caregivers to serve all of the communities within the Mascoma School District.
6. To see if the Town will vote to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, established at the 1991 Town Meeting. A public hearing must be held by the Selectmen before proceeding with an expenditure.
7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred one thousand, sixty-eight dollars (\$301,068.00), to defray Town charges.
(This excludes the amounts raised in Articles 2, 3, 4, 5)

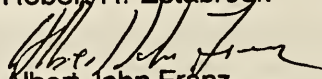
Recommended by the Selectmen

8. To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

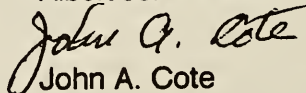
Given under our hands this 16th day of February 2004



Robert R. Estabrook



Albert John Franz



John A. Cote

Selectmen, Town of Dorchester

DORCHESTER TOWN BUDGET

1	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	'03 APPRO.	'03 EXPENDITURES	OVERSPENT	UNDERSPENT	2004 RECOMMENDED
2	Officers' Salaries	\$14,500.00	\$15,216.33	-\$716.33		\$20,000.00
3	Officers' Expenses	\$28,000.00	\$34,110.81	-\$6,110.81		\$36,000.00
4	Election & Registration	\$1,000.00	\$720.57		\$279.43	\$1,200.00
5	General Govt. Buildings	\$9,000.00	\$11,447.34	-\$2,447.34		\$9,000.00
6	Planning & Development	\$400.00	\$339.00		\$61.00	\$400.00
7	Property Appraisal	\$3,000.00	\$2,975.78		\$24.22	\$5,000.00
8	Legal Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$5,705.05	-\$705.05		\$4,500.00
9	Regional Associations	\$1,000.00	\$602.00		\$398.00	\$800.00
10	Town Reports & Mailing	\$1,200.00	\$931.06		\$268.94	\$1,000.00
11	Timber Survey Fund	\$500.00	\$877.50	-\$377.50		\$1,000.00
12	Cemeteries	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00			\$1,200.00
13	Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
14	Tax Lien Properties	\$0.00	\$2,232.00	-\$2,232.00		\$2,300.00
15						
16	PUBLIC SAFETY					
17	Forest Fire Protection	\$500.00	\$191.12		\$308.88	\$500.00
18	Fire Department Contracts	\$16,000.00	\$10,016.72		\$5,983.28	\$16,000.00
19	Police Department	\$1,500.00	\$95.00		\$1,405.00	\$500.00
20	Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$673.99		\$326.01	\$1,000.00
21	911 & Emergency Mgt.	\$750.00	\$537.66		\$212.34	\$1,200.00
22						
23	Highways, Streets, Bridges					
24	Town Maintenance	\$95,000.00				
25	Highway Block Grant	\$31,665.37				
26	TOTAL	\$126,665.37	\$112,878.52		\$13,786.85	\$136,700.00

27		'03 APPRO.	'03 EXPENDITURES	OVERSPENT	UNDERSPENT	2004 RECOMMENDED
28	SANITATION					
29	Solid Waste Disposal	\$21,000.00	\$20,885.29		\$114.71	\$23,000.00
30	PBSW & NHRRA /Dues	\$500.00	\$414.37		\$85.63	\$500.00
31						
32	HEALTH					
33	Canaan F.A.S.T. Squad	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00
34	VN & NH Visiting Nurses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-----		\$1,500.00
35	Voices Against Violence	\$350.00	\$350.00	-----		\$368.00
36	Sr. Citizens Council	\$620.00	\$620.00	-----		\$500.00
37	Health Officers	\$400.00	\$59.14		\$340.86	\$400.00
38						
39	WELFARE					
40	General Assistance	\$3,000.00	\$4,111.01	-\$1,111.01		\$5,000.00
41	(Includes CAP, West Central Services, Welfare Directors Salary and Expenses)					
42						
43	DEBT SERVICE					
44	Interest TA Loan	\$5,000.00	\$5,942.82		-\$942.82	\$4,000.00
45						
46	MISCELLANEOUS					
47	Insurance	\$18,200.00	\$17,439.29		\$760.71	\$20,000.00
48	Tax Refunds	\$2,000.00	\$463.50		\$1,536.50	\$3,000.00
49						
50	TOTALS	\$268,285.37	\$256,035.87	TOTAL -----		\$301,068.00
51						
52	TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR 2004*****					\$301,068.00

SOURCES OF REVENUES

SOURCE	'03 ESTIMATE	'03 ACTUAL	2004 ESTIMATE
TAXES			
Yield Taxes	\$15,000.00	\$10,716.49	\$15,000.00
Interest & Penalties	\$3,000.00	\$6,850.61	\$3,000.00
STATE OF NH			
Revenue Sharing	\$10,000.00	\$11,801.00	\$11,000.00
Rooms & Meals Tax	\$8,000.00	\$11,052.84	\$10,000.00
Highway Block Grant	\$31,665.37	\$31,665.37	\$32,290.30
State Forest Land	\$600.00	\$969.23	\$800.00
LICENSES & FEES			
Motor Vehicles	\$35,000.00	\$41,568.00	\$40,000.00
Dog Licenses	\$500.00	\$731.86	\$600.00
Permits & Filing Fees	\$200.00	\$504.50	\$300.00
UCC Fees	\$200.00	\$120.00	\$100.00
MISCELLANEOUS			
Planning Board	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Insurance Div/Refunds	\$0.00	\$565.29	\$0.00
Sale of Town Property	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
State Reimbursement Melanson Way		\$35,225.50	
Reimbursement Road Damage		\$600.00	
Interest on Deposits	\$200.00	\$68.58	
Forest Fire Reimbursement		\$76.54	
Reimbursement Property Damage		\$60.00	
Gift (Abell)		\$6,074.26	
Pistol Per./ copies		\$70.00	
Current Use Filing Fee		\$40.00	
TOTAL	\$104,465.37	\$158,870.07	\$113,190.30

DETAILED SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

Property Taxes:

Current Year.....	\$353,928.76
Interest.....	\$797.97
Prior Years.....	\$209,015.21
Interest.....	\$5,726.63

Redeemed Taxes:

Lien Amount.....	\$11,283.35
Costs and Interest.....	\$4,115.18

Yield Taxes:

Current Year.....	\$10,325.87
Prior Years.....	\$390.62

State of NH:

Revenue Sharing.....	\$11,801.00
Rooms & Meals Tax.....	\$11,052.84
Highway Block Grant.....	\$31,665.37
State Forest Land.....	\$969.23

Tax Anticipation Loans.....\$451,000.00

Motor Vehicles Fees.....	\$41,354.00
Dog Licenses & Penalties.....	\$731.86
Title Fees & Copies.....	\$214.00
U.C.C. Filings.....	\$120.00
Municipal Agent's Fee.....	\$1,159.00
Marriages.....	\$45.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$459.50
Forest Fire Training Reimbursement.....	\$76.54
Pistol Permits.....	\$70.00
State Reimbursement (Melanson Way).....	\$35,225.50
Reimbursement for Road Damage.....	\$600.00
Reimbursement for Property Damage.....	\$60.00
Interest on Deposits.....	\$68.58
Sale of Town Property.....	\$100.00
Gift (Abell).....	\$6,074.26
Current Use Filing Fee.....	\$40.00
Planning Board.....	\$10.00

Total Receipts for 2003.....	\$1,173,318.71
Cash on hand January 1, 2003.....	\$168,903.74
Cash Available for 2003.....	\$1,342,222.45
Balance on hand, December 31, 2003.....	-\$128,377.56

SUMMARY OF VALUATIONS

Net Land Values, 27,835.07 acres.....	\$8,382,996.00
Tax Exempt Land, 704,61 acres.....	\$406,474.00
Net Taxable Land Value.....	\$7,922,522.00
Current Use Valuation, 25,398.9 acres.....	\$1,313,252.00
Residential Land , 1,731.56 acres.....	\$6,609,270.00
Buildings (All).....	\$10,663,562.00
Less Tax Exempt Buildings.....	\$384,700.00
Net Taxable Buildings Valuation.....	\$10,278,862.00
Public Utilities, NH Electric Co-op.....	\$632,378.00
Total Evaluation Before Exemption.....	\$18,833,762.00
Elderly Exemptions.....	\$23,000.00
Valuation on which tax rate is computed.....	\$18,810,762.00

TAXES ASSESSED AND TAX RATE

Net Assessed Valuation.....				\$18,810,762.00
Town Property Taxes Assessed.....				\$565,781.00
Less War Service Credit.....				\$5,400.00
Net Property Tax Commitment.....				\$560,381.00
Tax Rate per \$1,000.....				\$30.25
Municipal....\$6.47	County....\$1.80	Local School.....		\$16.85
		State Education.....		\$5.13

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Town House, Land & Buildings.....	\$94,000.00
Contents.....	\$1,350.00
Selectmen's Office, Land & Buildings.....	\$30,900.00
Contents.....	\$5,000.00
Police Department Equipment.....	\$100.00
Highway Department, Equipment & Materials.....	\$206,400.00
Historical Museum.....	\$12,400.00
Other Town Land.....	\$37,029.00
Forest Fire Equipment.....	\$2,000.00
TOTAL.....	\$389,179.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash on Hand.....	\$67,622.44
Funds in custody of Treasurer.....	\$67,622.44
Unredeemed Taxes.....	\$72,778.31
Uncollected Taxes.....	\$210,517.15
Property Taxes.....	\$208,668.80
Yield Taxes.....	\$88.35
Land Use Change.....	\$1,760.00
Total Asset	\$350,917.90

LIABILITIES:

Accounts owed by the Town:

School Taxes Payable, January - June 2004.....	\$214,066.52
Tax Anticipation Notes.....	\$196,000.00
Total Liabilities.....	\$410,066.52

FUND BALANCE (Excess of Assets over Liabilities)..... **-\$59,148.62**

RECONCILIATION:

Fund Balance, December 31, 2002.....	-\$47,588.27
Fund Balance December 31, 2003.....	-\$59,148.62
Change in Financial Condition.....	-\$11,560.35



TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 2003

CASH ON HAND, January 1, 2003.....\$168,903.74

Includes:.....\$40,817.49 (Mascoma Checking)

\$1,568.64 (Mascoma Savings Bank)

\$4,014.56 (Pemigewasset Checking)

\$119,986.05 (Tax Collector Receipts in Transit)

\$2,517.00 (Town Clerk Receipts in Transit)

\$168,903.74



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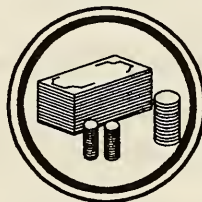
Tax Collector.....\$590,693.08

Town Clerk.....\$44,164.86

Selectmen.....\$87,392.19

Tax Anticipation Loans....\$451,000.00

Interest.....\$68.58



TOTAL RECEIPT.....\$1,173,318.71

TOTAL AVAILABLE.....\$1,342,222.45

PAYMENTS BY ORDER OF SELECTMEN.....\$1,274,600.01

CASH ON HAND, DECEMBER 31, 2003.....\$67,622.44

MASCOMA SAVINGS BANK (Checking).....\$0.00

MASCOMA SAVINGS BANK (Money Mgmt).....\$0.00

PEMIGEWASSET NATIONAL BANK (Checking).....\$66,982.44

Tax Collector Receipts in Transit....\$0.00

Town Clerk Receipts in Transit.....\$640.00

TOTAL CASH ON HAND.....\$67,622.44

OUTSTANDING TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Pemigewasset Tan 2003B.....\$196,000.00

TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2003.....-\$128,377.56

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

BRIAN A. HOWE

TREASURER



TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
For the Municipality of Dorchester, N.H.
Year Ending 12-31-03

Uncollected Taxes- Beginning Year: 2003	Prior
Property Taxes.....	\$219,104.54
Land Use Change.....	\$1,760.00
Yield Taxes.....	\$478.97

Taxes Committed This Year:

Property Taxes.....	\$562,564.94
Yield Taxes.....	\$10,325.87

TOTAL DEBITS..... \$572,890.81.... \$221,343.51

Remitted to treasurer during FY:

Property Taxes.....	\$353,928.76	\$209,015.21
Yield Taxes.....	\$10,325.87	\$390.62
Interest/Costs.....	\$797.97	\$5,726.63
Penalties.....	\$0.00	\$326.01
Conversion to Lien.....	\$0.00	\$12,068.26
Property to be Liened.....	\$0.00	\$1,883.28

Uncollected Taxes, end of year:

Property Taxes.....	\$208,668.80	\$0.00
Land Use Change.....	\$0.00	\$1,760.00
Yield Taxes.....	\$0.00	\$88.35

TOTAL CREDITS..... \$573,721.40..... \$231,258.36

Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beg. of Year.....\$85,856.32

Liens Executed During Fiscal Year.....\$13,567.03

Int. & Costs Collected after Lien Execution.....\$4,115.18

TOTAL DEBITS.....\$103,538.53

Remittance to Treasurer:

Redemptions.....	\$11,283.35
Interest & Costs After Lien Execution.....	\$4,115.18
Liens Deeded to Municipality.....	\$15,267.68

Unredeemed Liens Balance, End of Year.....\$72,778.31

TOTAL CREDITS.....\$103,444.52



Nancy Drowne, Tax Collector

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT



December 31, 2003

Cash on Hand 1/1/03.....	\$100.00
Car Registrations - 512.....	\$41,354.00
Title Fees + Copies.....	\$214.00
Dog Licenses - 101.....	\$731.86
UCC Filings	\$120.00
Marriage Licenses.....	\$45.00
Misc. (Maps, Permits, Copies, Filing Fees).....	\$459.50
M.A.F.....	\$1,159.00

Total Remitted to Treasurer..... \$44,083.36

Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003.....\$100.00



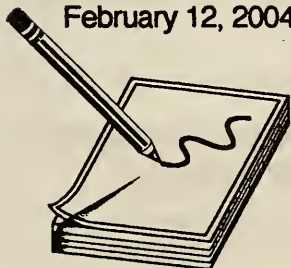
Brenda Howe, Town Clerk

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, the undersigned, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Cemetery Trustees and the Trustees of Trust Funds, and find them correctly and properly vouched.

February 12, 2004

Auditors



Martha L. Walker
Candy A. Lydon

2003 REPORT OF CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The fence was placed around the Dorchester Cemetery where it was needed. The fence was \$558.73 so we had \$41.27 left over. We are hoping to put the same kind of post and rail fence around the new part of the North Dorchester Cemetery in the near future.

Receipts:

Balance January 2003.....	\$363.64
Balance from cemetery fence.....	\$41.27
Bank Interest	\$3.52
Town Appropriation.....	\$1,200.00

TOTAL.....\$1,608.43

Payments:

<i>Dorchester Cemetery</i>	\$726.00
<i>Cheever Cemetery</i>	\$209.00
<i>North Dorchester Cemetery</i>	\$176.00
<i>Town House Cemetery</i>	\$99.00
American Legion Post 76 (flags).....	\$35.00
Bank Service Charge.....	\$15.00
2003 Taxes (Med. & S.S.).....	\$92.57

TOTAL.....\$1,352.57

Balance on Hand January 2004..... \$255.86

Respectfully submitted,
Cemetery Trustees

DETAILED REPORT OF PAYMENTS

TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES..... \$15,216.33

Robert R. Estabrook, Selectman (Chairman).....	\$1,662.30
Albert John Franz, Selectman.....	\$1,662.30
John A. Cote, Selectman.....	\$1,662.30
Brian A. Howe, Treasurer	\$923.50
Jennifer Grace, Dep. Treasurer.....	\$55.40
Nancy Drowne, Tax Collector (Apr.- Dec.).....	\$1,038.93
Brenda Howe, Dep. Tax Collector (Apr.- Dec.).....	\$421.99
Delbert Pratt, Tax Collector (Jan. - Mar.).....	\$346.31
Marilyn Pratt, Dep. Tax Collector (Jan. - Mar.).....	\$13.85
Brenda Howe, Town Clerk (Salary + Fees).....	\$2,632.56
Darlene Oaks, Dep. Town Clerk (Salary + Fees)..	\$1,715.29
Darlene Oaks, Trustee of Trust Funds.....	\$46.17
Brenda Howe, Trustee of Trust Funds.....	\$46.17
Carol Towne, Trustee of Trust Funds.....	\$46.17
John A. Cote, Permit Officer.....	\$502.38
Martha L. Walker, Auditor.....	\$138.52
Cindy Azotea, Auditor.....	\$138.52
F.I.C.A.....	\$2,163.67

TOWN OFFICERS' EXPENSES..... \$34,110.81

AT & T.....	\$314.86
Dell Government Lease (Computer).....	\$1,438.63
J.A.Q. Assemblies (Perambulation Supplies).....	\$91.50
Legal Books & Publications.....	\$542.40
Permit Officer's Expenses.....	\$368.13
Postage.....	\$386.57
Real Estate Transfers (Deeds).....	\$525.85
Secretary/Bookkeeper (Linda Landry).....	\$13,245.17
F.I.C.A.....	\$2,495.43
Withholding.....	\$1,300.00
Selectmen's Expenses	
Copier/Mileage/Postage/Supplies.....	\$7,402.92
Staples (supplies).....	\$2,052.82
Sunapee Business Systems (checks).....	\$290.26
Tax Collector's Expenses.....	\$2,368.68
Town Clerk's Expenses.....	\$444.82
Verizon.....	\$692.77
Workshops/Seminars.....	\$150.00

TOWN REPORTS OF 2002..... \$931.06

Fred B. Estabrook Printing.....	\$828.82
Postage.....	\$53.60
Addressing and Mailing.....	\$42.00
Photographs (John Cote).....	\$6.64

LAND USE BOARDS.....	\$339.00
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Council.....	\$339.00
REGISTRATION & ELECTION.....	\$720.57
Delbert Pratt, Ballot Clerk.....	\$52.50
Alice Melanson, Ballot Clerk.....	\$52.50
Henry Melanson, Moderator.....	\$58.18
Christine M. Morgan, Supervisor of Checklist.....	\$58.18
Darlene Oaks, Supervisor of Checklist.....	\$112.21
Marilyn Pratt, Supervisor of Checklist.....	\$67.88
F.I.C.A.....	\$49.12
Salmon Press (notices).....	\$129.00
Country Chronicle (notices).....	\$84.00
The Cardigan (notices).....	\$24.00
The Penney Saver (notices).....	\$33.00
TOWN BUILDINGS.....	\$11,447.34
A.M. Rand Co.....	\$121.10
Ashland Lumber	\$119.66
Canaan Hardware.....	\$288.72
Donald Bemis Jr.....	\$103.43
Nancy Cote (Grounds).....	\$269.67
John A. Cote.....	\$120.12
Jeanne Conkey (Custodian).....	\$1,505.98
Albert John Franz.....	\$52.25
Johnson & Dix (Town Hall).....	\$1,193.64
K & R. Portable Toilets.....	\$1,995.00
Lee Hennessey Plumbing.....	\$589.21
N.H. Electric Co-op.....	\$891.23
Clarence C. Poitras.....	\$146.28
Presidential Pest Control.....	\$500.00
Small Engine Technology.....	\$30.25
Supplies (general).....	\$18.87
Robert Rudder III.....	\$115.44
Jean Tardif.....	\$576.26
Tri-State Fire Protection (fire extinguishers).....	\$249.50
Verizon (Town Hall).....	\$400.60
Yeaton Agway.....	\$63.31
Yeaton Oil Co. (Town Office).....	\$1,628.12
F.I.C.A.....	\$468.70
PROPERTY APPRAISAL.....	\$2,975.78
David A. Morrill.....	\$1,333.28
Earls, Nieder, Perkins, LLC.....	\$575.00
Linda M. Landry.....	\$581.76
Postage/Phone/Supplies.....	\$254.14
F.I.C.A.....	\$231.60

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Protection.....	\$10,016.72
Town of Rumney Fire Dept.....	\$3,292.39
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (dispatching).....	\$6,724.33
Forest Fire Dept.	\$191.12
John Jay Legg, Warden	\$33.80
Michael Joyce, Deputy Warden.....	\$54.07
John Reitsma, Deputy Warden.....	\$41.47
Joshua Trought, Deputy Warden.....	\$41.83
F.I.C.A.....	\$19.95
Animal Control.....	\$673.99
John A. Cote.....	\$48.97
Tomas Crowley.....	\$27.43
Bruce LaRochelle.....	\$47.48
F.I.C.A.....	\$17.14
I.D.S. (License Tags).....	\$133.01
Postage.....	\$342.50
State of N.H. (Animal Population Control).....	\$270.00
Police.....	\$95.00
Grafton County Sheriff's Department.....	\$95.00

LEGAL EXPENSES.....	\$5,705.05
Mitchell & Bates, PA.....	\$3,325.51
Schuster, Buttrey & Wing, PA.....	\$2,379.54

HIGHWAYS, STREETS & BRIDGES.....	\$112,878.52
Payroll.....	\$38,634.57
F.I.C.A./Withholding.....	\$3,294.42
Town Maintenance.....	\$70,949.53
Includes: Highway Block Grant	\$31,665.37

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL.....	\$21,299.66
Town of Rumney, Transfer Station.....	\$20,785.29
Perni-Baker Solid Waste District (dues).....	\$414.37
Plymouth Village Water & Sewage District.....	\$100.00

DORCHESTER CEMETERY COMMITTEE.....	\$1,200.00
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TOWN FORESTER.....	\$877.50
All Seasons Forestry.....	\$877.50

HEALTH.....	\$6,029.14
Canaan F.A.S.T. Squad.....	\$3,500.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council.....	\$620.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vt & NH.....	\$1,500.00
Voices Against Violence.....	\$350.00
Mascoma Health Initiative.....	\$29.00
Health Officers.....	\$25.86
F.I.C.A.....	\$4.28

WELFARE.....	\$4,111.01
General Assistance.....	\$2,429.21
Alice Melanson, Welfare Director.....	\$1,200.00
West Central Services.....	\$390.00
F.I.C.A.....	\$91.80
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.....	\$602.00
N.H. Assessing Officials' Dues.....	\$20.00
N.H. City & Town Clerks' Dues.....	\$20.00
N.H. Health Officers' Dues.....	\$10.00
N.H. Municipal Assoc. Dues.....	\$507.00
N.H. Public Works Mutual Aid.....	\$25.00
N.H. Tax Collectors' Dues.....	\$20.00
INSURANCE.....	\$17,439.29
N.H. Municipal Assoc. (Workers' Comp.).....	\$3,566.20
N.H.M.A. Prop./Liab. Insurance.....	\$2,708.22
HealthTrust (Health).....	\$11,107.68
N.H. Compensation Funds.....	\$57.19
TAX REFUNDS.....	\$463.50
GRAFTON COUNTY TAX.....	\$35,306.00
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	\$76.00
Treasurer, State of N.H.....	\$76.00
MASCOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	\$401,324.46
DEBT SERVICE.....	\$177,628.99
T.A.N. Repayment.....	\$177,628.99
Tax Anticipation Loan Interest.....	\$5,942.82
Returned Checks.....	\$1,304.73
Banking Expenses.....	\$52.32
E911 & Emergency Management.....	\$537.66
TAX LIENS EXPENSES.....	\$2,232.63
PAYMENTS FOR ALL PURPOSES.....	\$864,429.13



Receipts January 1, 2003 thru December 31, 2003.....	\$1,173,318.71
Cash On Hand, January 1, 2003.....	\$168,903.74
Cash Available.....	\$1,342,222.45
Disbursements, January 1, 2003 thru December 31, 2003.....	\$1,274,600.01
General Fund.....	\$67,622.44
Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003.....	\$67,622.44



Edith T. Gray

1908 ~ 2003

**A tireless supporter of
Dorchester and its People**



**Edith Gray served on the
Dorchester School Board
from
1955 ~ 1960**

ROAD BOND INFORMATION

WHY A BOND ISSUE?

- 1. In the mid-nineteen nineties, promises were made to the North Dorchester residents that efforts were under way to comprehensively address repairs of the Hearse House/Bickford Woods artery, followed by repairs to North Dorchester Road. The Town due to Bridge repair/replacement, storm damage, etc. as well as budget & weather constraints has seriously fallen short on those promises.**
- 2. It will replace one of our most problematic and costly roads with permanent pavement and long-term ease of maintenance.**
- 3. Residents in the North Dorchester part of Town are spending large amounts of money on vehicular repairs directly attributable to road surface conditions.**
- 4. The road in its current condition has resulted in high cost reactive repairs, and barely staying ahead of a complete road surface breakdown further exacerbated by increased usage, weather, heavy vehicles, and poor drainage.**
- 5. The sad truth of the current "leap frog/band aide approach" to road repair is that by the time a short section can be completed from drainage to surface; previous sections have fallen to states of disrepair.**

- 6. It will save money in the long run because longer stretches of road repair cost less per mile than short stretches. The contracting out of repair work should result in faster completion of the work and cost control.**
- 7. Road maintenance funds can be redirected to other long neglected town roads, as it will relieve the highway crew from committing weeks of good summer weather to road building. Unfortunately road building and most maintenance items compete for the same good weather days.**
- 8. Interest rates are very low, making this an ideal time to undertake this project. If we do not invest in these repairs in a comprehensive fashion, the people will continue to commute, the busses and delivery trucks will continue to service that area of town and timber & chip trucks will continue to move their products. The costs of repair will continue to escalate and next year the costs of rebuilding these roads will be just that much higher.**

**BEST OF ALL IT WON'T INCREASE THE TAX
RATE**

The total cost, (principal and interest) will be more than covered by Highway Block Grant funds for the next 15 years.

**BE SURE TO VOTE YES ON
MARCH 13**

2003 ROAD MONEY DISTRIBUTION

PAYROLL.....\$41,928.99

George C. Conkey, II Road Agent	\$25,092.17
Donald Bemis.....	\$152.00
Jody Champney.....	\$6,720.00
John A. Cote.....	\$280.00
Michael Landry.....	\$40.00
Bruce LaRochelle.....	\$2,936.00
Shirley LaRochelle.....	\$56.00
Brett MacDonald.....	\$1,072.00
Clarence Poitras.....	\$2,006.40
Jean Tardif.....	\$208.00
Randy Whitehurst.....	\$72.00
F.I.C.A.....	\$3,294.42

SUB-CONTRACTORS.....\$3,341.00

Kevin Bolash Welding.....	\$123.50
Dorchester Sand & Stone.....	\$1,187.50
Michael A. Joyce.....	\$2,030.00

FUEL\$5,676.37

Baileyhill Motorsport (fuel additive).....	\$91.92
Bradford Pratt's Co.....	\$4,591.94
Davis Gas.....	\$159.00
Ryezak Oil Co.....	\$542.63
Shortt's Garage.....	\$290.88

INTERNATIONAL TRUCK EXPENSES.....\$5,881.67

A.M. Rand Co.....	\$42.50
Baileyhill Motorsports.....	\$895.07
Donovan Spring Co.....	\$552.84
Dyer's Welding.....	\$48.00
Howard P. Fairfield Co.....	\$86.03
Kibby Equipment.....	\$97.55
Larry's Auto Body.....	\$2,640.21
Liberty International.....	\$599.24
N.H. Municipal Truck Equipment.....	\$466.87
Bruce LaRochelle (lights).....	\$19.50
Sabil & Sons.....	\$94.10
Sanel Auto Parts Co.....	\$7.13
Wise Guy's Automotive.....	\$306.64
Yeaton Agway.....	\$25.99

FORD 550 TRUCK EXPENSES..... \$15,495.21

Ash Supply Co.....	\$304.38
Baileyhill Motorsports.....	\$316.03
Canaan Hardware.....	\$5.44
Flanders & Patch.....	\$529.62
Ford Motor Credit.....	\$12,946.63
Kibby Equip.....	\$97.55
Bruce LaRoche (lights).....	\$19.50
N.H. Municipal Truck Equipment.....	\$867.00
Sanel.....	\$5.99
Wilson Tire.....	\$201.00
Wise Guy's Automotive.....	\$162.08
Yeaton Agway.....	\$39.99

1996 FORD RANGER.....\$1,164.70

Baileyhill Motorsports.....	\$113.84
Bailey Brothers.....	\$46.53
Flanders & Patch.....	\$431.34
Shaker Valley Auto.....	\$26.52
Shortt's Garage.....	\$311.27
Wise Guy's Automotive.....	\$235.20

LOADER BACKHOE..... \$13,505.43

Caterpillar Financial Service.....	\$12,169.35
Dyer's Welding.....	\$42.00
Pemi Glass Co.....	\$40.00
Southworth Milton	\$1,236.08
Wilson Tire Inc	\$18.00

OTHER EQUIPMENT.....\$1,850.51

A.M. Rand Co.....	\$763.31
Bailey Brothers.....	\$61.38
Kibby Equipment.....	\$134.61
Lakes Region Two-Way (radios).....	\$191.40
Merriam-Graves Corp.....	\$544.81
Small Engine Technology.....	\$155.00

MAINTENANCE MATERIALS..... \$18,338.06

Cargill Salt.....	\$2,683.97
Dorchester Sand & Stone.....	\$11,163.50
I-93 Asphalt.....	\$3,130.55
Pike Industries Inc.....	\$712.80
Yeaton Agway Services.....	\$647.24

GENERAL HIGHWAY EXPENSE.....	\$5,696.58
A.M. Rand Company.....	\$419.73
Bailey Brothers.....	\$38.26
Kevin Bolash Welding.....	\$164.45
Canaan Hardware.....	\$140.08
Electricity/Phone.....	\$2,274.27
Haskell's Work Clothes (safety shoes).....	\$102.00
Laconia Electric Supply.....	\$52.36
Mileage/Expenses.....	\$58.90
N.H. State of, Treasurer (signs).....	\$398.30
Sanel Auto Parts.....	\$52.80
Shaker Valley Auto.....	\$6.29
Small Engine Technology.....	\$136.40
Staples.....	\$50.00
Tri-State Fire Protection (fire extinguishers).....	\$93.74
UniFirst.....	\$825.81
Wise Guy's Automotive.....	\$639.20
Workshops/Seminars.....	\$222.00
Yeaton Agway.....	\$21.99

2003 ROAD MONEY DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

PAYROLL.....	\$41,928.99
SUB-CONTRACTORS.....	\$3,341.00
FUEL.....	\$5,676.37
INTERNATIONAL TRUCK EXPENSES	\$5,881.67
FORD 550 TRUCK EXPENSES.....	\$15,495.21
1996 FORD RANGER.....	\$1,164.70
LOADER	\$13,505.43
OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$1,850.51
MAINTENANCE MATERIALS.....	\$18,338.06
GENERAL HIGHWAY EXPENSES.....	\$5,696.58
TOTAL.....	\$112,878.52

Road Agent's Report

Although the Dorchester Road Department suffered a major cut in its budget this year, with the excellent highway equipment provided by the town's people, good things continued to happen to Dorchester's Roads.

- * This year, as part of the Road Sand Project, a screen was brought in to rescreen our remaining sand from previous years which was contaminated by repeated handling. This now usable sand, plus the addition of 1,500 yards of new specification sand from an "in town" source, was stockpiled.
- * Most of the culverts purchased in 2002 at truck load prices have been used to replace deteriorated pipes around town.
- * The decision to retain our Case Backhoe has benefited the town by being able to load and unload materials at the Town Maintenance area while our primary loader has been on "location" This has saved many hours and miles of shuttling equipment while replacing culverts.
- * The Lease of the Multi-Tool Caterpillar Loader Backhoe has proved very cost effective, as this versatile piece of equipment has eliminated the need to rent such equipment as brooms.
- * Problems continue to exist in filling the full-time Road Maintainer position. However I have had the good fortune of being able to hire casual labor from town to fill the void and allow for most necessary projects to be completed.
- * Funds were expended to sandblast and paint our International Truck. The plow, which was not new when the truck was purchased, will need to be replaced before next winter.
- * Selectman Cote and I have continued to attend training sessions which will better equip us to comply with ever changing State and Federal requirements.

- * A cooperative attempt to allow snowmobile use of several sections of Town Road has resulted in much positive feedback and relatively few complaints.
- * Use of highway personnel for other necessary town purposes, such as town buildings, trash removal and supply of information has proven invaluable to the Town.
- * While in town, the services of full sized road grader were secured to prepare some unpaved surfaces for winter; without incurring the usual mobilization costs.
- * Roadside mowing was accomplished on most Town roads, taking advantage of a cutback in State Highway Department mowing.
- * The purchase of improved signage on a Town wide basis has continued.
- * I have continued to provide in-put, regarding roads, on Planning and Zoning matters.

In closing, the Dorchester Highway Department is here to serve the needs of the people of Dorchester. If you require anything regarding town roads, please call the Highway Garage at 786-2385, and leave a message.

Respectfully submitted
George C. Conkey, II
Road Agent

Dorchester

Planning Board 2003

During 2003 the Dorchester Planning Board has continued to meet regularly at the Town Office on the second Wednesday of each month. During these meetings we have reviewed current legislative action which directly effects the enforcement of Dorchester's Subdivision and Land Use Regulations, provided information to land owners regarding subdivision, and facilitated Boundary Adjustments.

In the summer of 2003, the New Hampshire Legislature repealed RSA 674:41 prohibiting the issuance of a Building Permit on a Private Road. As a result, the issuance of a Building Permit on a Private Road in the Town of Dorchester will require review and comment by the Planning Board, before the Selectmen issue a "Road Release" to be filed by the landowner with the registry of deeds.

Although, no applications for subdivision have been received this year, the Planning Board has been approached for information regarding subdivision of several pieces of property within the Town. Issues of road frontage, ratio of frontage to depth, wetlands, and right-of-ways were addressed by the Planning Board.

We encourage any property owner in the Town of Dorchester to become familiar with Dorchester's Subdivision Regulations when considering subdividing their property.

Early in March the Dorchester Planning Board became actively involved with a subdivision request involving the Town of Wentworth. As an abutting town, Dorchester and its residents stood to be negatively impacted by a major subdivision planned for Cheever Road in the Town of Wentworth. Dorchester Planning Board members attended the Hearing on this subdivision in Wentworth. With roads and services being the main concern of both Boards, we shared strategies for dealing with subdivisions of this type with the Wentworth Planning Board. It was a relief to know that no such subdivision would ever be approved in Dorchester, but a concern that, because of less stringent Subdivision Regulations in abutting towns, Dorchester's roads could be negatively impacted.

The Planning Board facilitated a Boundary Adjustment in August. Boundary Adjustments allow property owners to acquire land from their abutting neighbors without going through the formal subdivision process. However, updated surveys showing accurate mete and bounds, as well, as the proposed boundary adjustment are required. A deed restriction is also required; merging the two parcels into one and will from then on be considered as one and cannot be subdivided without making proper application.

In closing, the Planning Board encourages the landowners of Dorchester to become familiar with Dorchester's Land Use Regulations. If you have any questions regarding either the Subdivision Regulations or the Land Use Regulations do not hesitate to contact any member of the Planning Board.



2nd Wednesday of each month

7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office

January 14, 2004

February 11, 2004

March 10, 2004

April 14, 2004

May 12, 2004

June 9, 2004

July 14, 2004

August 11, 2004

September 8, 2004

October 13, 2004

November 10, 2004

December 8, 2004



2003 REPORT OF TRUST FUNDS

CEMETERY TRUSTS

Lucy Hazen & Sanborn Kimball Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$288.44
Interest 2003.....	\$3.36
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$291.80

Scott Burleigh Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$881.48
Interest 2003.....	\$10.27
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$891.75

Paul Hutchinson Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$1,468.24
Interest 2003.....	\$17.11
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$1,485.35

J. C. Davenport Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$210.68
Interest 2003.....	\$2.45
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$213.13

Joseph & Katherine Grochocki Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$369.52
Interest 2003.....	\$4.31
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$373.83

Town Cemetery Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$2,321.44
Interest 2003.....	\$27.05
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$2,348.49

All Cemeteries Fund (newly created 2003)

Balance.....	\$1,200.00
Interest 2003.....	\$0.00
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$1,200.00

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Town Building Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$45,838.69
New Funds 2003.....	\$0.00
Expended 2003.....	\$0.00
Interest 2003.....	\$740.61
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$46,579.30

Highway Equipment & Maintenance Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$5,252.06
New Funds 2003.....	\$0.00
Expended 2003.....	\$0.00
Interest 2003.....	\$150.37
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$5,402.43

Bridges Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$29,830.27
New Funds 2003.....	\$0.00
Expended 2003.....	\$0.00
Interest 2003.....	\$374.03
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$30,204.30

Property Revaluation Fund

Balance, 12/31/02.....	\$36,637.38
New Funds 2003.....	\$0.00
Expended 2003.....	\$0.00
Interest 2003.....	\$439.82
Balance, 12/31/03.....	\$37,077.20

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda A. Howe
Darlene Oaks
Carol Towne
Trustees of Trust Funds



Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands cooperate and coordinate to reduce the risk of wild land fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing **ANY** outside burning. Fire permits are mandatory for all outside burning unless the ground where the burning is to be done (and surrounding areas) is completely covered with snow. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail, in addition to the cost of suppressing the fire.

A new law effective January 1, 2003 prohibits residential trash burning (RSA 125-N). Contact New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (800) 498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information.

Help us to protect you and our forest resources. Most New Hampshire wildfires are human caused. Homeowners can help protect their homes by maintaining adequate green space around the house and making sure that the house number is correct and visible. Contact your local Fire Department or the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands at www.nhdfil.com or call 271-2217 for wild land fire safety information.

REMEMBER ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

2003 FIRE STATISTICS

(All Fires Reported thru November 03, 2003)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY

	<u># of Fires</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Belknap	40	4.86
Carroll	46	13.99
Cheshire	8	.68
Coos	7	17.40
Grafton	22	12.60
Hillsborough	60	11.34
Merrimack	98	10.45
Rockingham	56	18.54
Strafford	34	7.94
Sullivan	3	2.03

CAUSES OF FIRES

Arson/Suspicious	10
Campfire	25
Children	13
Smoking	20
Debris	226
Railroad	3
Lightning	2
Equipment	8
*Misc	67

*Misc: (powerlines,
fireworks, electric fences, etc)

	<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
2003	374	100
2002	540	187
2001	942	428
2000	516	149

Stephen M. Kessler, Forest Ranger
Jay Legg, Forest Fire Warden



TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

**Serving Coos, Carroll & Grafton Counties
30 Exchange Street, Berlin, N.H. 03570
1-800-552-4617
FAX No. 752-7607**

Tri-County Community Action Program is a private, not-for-profit agency.

The following is a report of services provided in fiscal year 2002-2003

**THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF TRI-COUNTY
COMMUNITY ACTION, THE CITIZENS OF
DORCHESTER HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF
\$18,648.00 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2002 AND JUNE 30, 2003,
THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE.**

FUEL ASSISTANCE.....	21.....	\$10,290.00
WEATHERIZATION.....	1.....	\$2,148.00
HOMELESS FUNDS (Rental, energy assistance).....	4.....	\$610.00
STATE-WIDE ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	14.....	\$5,600.00

Community Contact provides these and other necessary services for the less fortunate citizens in your town and surrounding vicinities.



VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Home Care, Hospice and Family Health Services Report to the Town of Dorchester

Your Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the local police and fire departments - a strategic part of the community's safety net -- with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Dorchester to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- * Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term and chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- * Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- * Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.



The Visiting Nurse Alliance provided the following services this past year:

Visits (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003)

		<i>Family Support Services</i>
Skilled Nursing.....	42	Families served..... 4
Physical Therapy.....	6	Individuals served.....7
Medical Social Worker.....	1	Home Visits.....72
Home Health Aide.....	276	Fatherhood Program.....3
Homemaker.....	<u>100</u>	
TOTAL VISITS.....	425	

<i>WIC (Women, Infants, children)</i>	
Number of Clients.....	4
Clinic Visits.....	15

<i>Hospice VNH</i>	
Patient Families served... 	1
Volunteer Hours.....	2.5
Volunteer Visits.....	1

<i>MCH</i>	
Children.....	2
Home Visits.....	65



VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

**P.O. Box 53
258 Highland Street
Plymouth, N.H. 03264
Crises Line (603) 536-1659
Office: (603) 536-3423**

Since joining Voices Against Violence in August, I have been continually amazed by the variety of services the agency provides and by the degree of professionalism with which the staff and volunteers deliver these services. I have been humbled by the experience of meeting men, women, and children who have endured unspeakable acts of violence and who define strength and resilience just by their being. For over 20 years, Voices has been offering support and encouragement to a full age range of female and male survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families in Dorchester and seventeen other Grafton County towns through:

- * 24-hour crisis line;
- * confidential emergency shelter and food for women and their children
- * emergency transportation;
- * hospital, court, and police accompaniment
- * assistance with temporary and permanent restraining orders
- * legal, social service, and housing advocacy
- * support groups for adults
- * education programs for elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools

Through these services, Voices had 2,059 contacts with 321 clients in our fiscal year 2003; 45 of these contacts were with 8 females and males from Dorchester. In the first six months of our fiscal year 2004, Voices has had 6 contacts with 1 victim from Dorchester. While these numbers represent persons assisted through a combination of all of the services listed above, we provided on-going, intensive support to 19 women and their 15 children who stayed in our shelter for a total of 2,078 bed nights, an increase of 15% over fiscal year 2002. In the first six months of our fiscal year 2004, 11 women and their 11 children have been sheltered

858 bed nights. For safety reasons, we do not often provide extended shelter stays for residents from our immediate area. This does not mean that women and children from our area are not experiencing violence; it means that our energy with them is focused on providing the support and assistance necessary to secure them a safe location.

While much of our energy is focused on providing this type of direct service, Voices is continually developing preventative models to stop the spread of violence in communities before it reaches a crisis stage. One step in that process is to maintain ongoing communication and collaborative programming with other social service agencies, law enforcement, medical personnel, the education and faith communities, area businesses, civic organizations, and others to assist community members of all ages in recognizing and developing the tools and skills necessary to avoid and limit crisis situations.

As part of this commitment to ending violence in our communities, Voices has enhanced our public outreach efforts, resulting in presentations to 2,31 area school students and community members during our fiscal year 2003. these presentations teach students about respecting self and others, maintaining healthy boundaries, stopping bullying and teasing, as well as offer information on the prevalence and cost of domestic and sexual violence to society.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Olmstead
Executive Director



SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

Grafton County

P.O. Box 433

Lebanon, NH 03766-0433

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to support the health and well being of our older citizens. The Council's programs enable elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The Council operates eight senior centers in Plymouth, Littleton, Canaan, Lebanon, Bristol, Orford, Haverhill and Lincoln, the information and assistance program Grafton County ServiceLink and also sponsors the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of the Upper Valley and White Mountains (RSVP). Through the centers, ServiceLink and RSVP, older adults and their families take part in a range of community-based long-term services including home delivered meals, congregate dining programs, transportation, adult day care, chore/home repair services, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

During 2003, **10** older residents of Dorchester were served by one or more of the Council's programs offered through the Plymouth Regional Senior Center or the Mascoma Area Senior Center:

- * Older adults from Dorchester enjoyed **285** balanced meals in the company of friends in the center's dining room.
- * They received **39** hot, nourishing meals delivered to their homes by caring volunteers.
- * Dorchester residents were transported to health care providers or other community resources on **22** occasions by our lift-equipped buses.
- * They received assistance with problems, crises or issues of long-term care through **14** visits by a trained social worker.
- * Dorchester's citizens also volunteered to put their talents and skills to work for a better community through **247.5** hours of volunteer service

The cost to provide Council services for Dorchester residents in 2003 was **\$2,504.32.**

Such services can be critical to elderly individuals who want to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care in spite of chronic health problems and increasing physical frailty, saving tax dollars which would otherwise be expended for nursing home care. They also contribute to a higher quality of life for our older friends and neighbors. As our population grows older, supportive services such as those offered by the Council become even more critical.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council very much appreciates Dorchester's support for our programs that enhance the independence and dignity of older citizens and enable them to meet the challenges of aging in the security and comfort of their own communities and homes.

Roberta Berner, Executive Director

***Mascoma Area Senior Center
P.O. Box 210
Canaan, NH 03741
523-4333***

***Plymouth Regional Senior Center
P.O. Box 478
Plymouth, NH 03264
536-1204***



REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF DISTRICT ONE

by

**RAYMOND S. BURTON, COUNCILOR
DISTRICT ONE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**338 River Road
Bath, NH 03740
Tel. (603) 747-3662
Car Phone (603) 481-0863
E-mail: ray.burton4@gte.net**

It is a pleasure to report to you now in my 25th year of serving the 98 towns, 4 cities and Coos, Carroll, Grafton, Sullivan and Belknap counties of New Hampshire. All together there are 249,00 people who I consider my customers, clients and constituents. It has always been a pleasure to respond, as my duties within the Executive Branch of your state government mandate, to inquiries for information, relief and assistance as provided in NH state law and budget. It is an honor to serve you as a public servant.

Below are listed several documents that are available to citizens and I find them to be a valuable NH resource.

The 2003-2004 state telephone directory of state departments and personnel. This 180 page directory includes TDD access numbers, office information, coordinators, map of location of state buildings, legislative listings, judicial branch listings, department listings, personnel listing and a topical listing. This is available for a cost of \$6.00 plus \$2.50 postage. Make checks payable to the State of New Hampshire , or order on line at:
www.gencourt.state.nh.us/visitorcenter. The entire directory is available at <http://www.state.nh.us/government/agencies.html>

The 2003-04 NH County Directory of all NH County officials is free and available by calling (603) 224-9222. This is also on the web at www.nhcounties.org

Also available at no cost from the Secretary of State Office at 271-3242 or at elections@sos.state.nh.us, or mail at Secretary of State, State House Room 204, Concord, NH

03301 are the following publications:

The NH Election Procedural Manual for 2004-2005

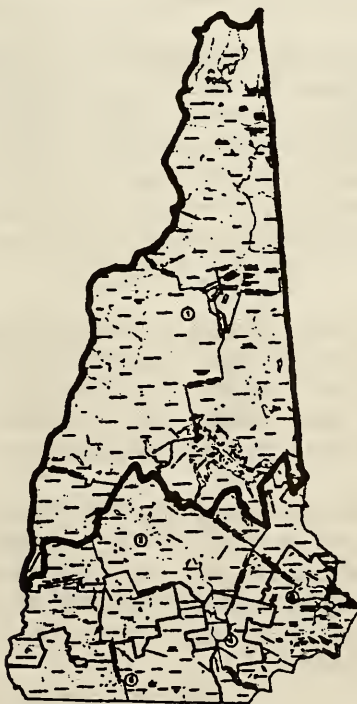
The NH Election Laws for 2004-2005

The NH Political calendar for 2004-2005

The duties of the NH Executive Council, The NH Tour Guide book, the official tourist map and the NH Constitution are always available from my office at 271-3632 or 747-3662 or ray.burton4@gte.net

As long as I'm around as one of your elected officials never ever feel you are alone in your hour of need. Contact me anytime!!

Sincerely yours,
Raymond S. Burton
Executive Councilor



West Central Behavioral Health

Dartmouth-Hitchcock

2 Whipple Place

Lebanon, NH 03766

Phone: (603) 448-0126 ~ Toll Free (800) 540-0126

Mental health is a cornerstone for every community. This essential community service helps prevent and reduce many of the most troubling problems a community can face: addiction, violence, suicide, unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness.

When left untreated, depression, addiction, and chronic mental illnesses can have tragic consequences. Thankfully, research has given us medicines and treatments that reduce symptoms and promote recovery. With your support, West Central Behavioral Health will provide essential care to residents of the Town of Dorchester who lack insurance and are unable to afford proper care.

Your support also strengthens our ability to provide critical emergency services for the Town of Dorchester. In the event of disaster, crisis, or tragedy, West Central Behavioral Health is prepared to respond to any location: schools businesses, parks or landmarks. Our counselors are trained in critical incident debriefing, emergency intervention and post incident counseling for survivors, friends, family members, and first responders.

Although treating illness and responding in the event of emergency are critical, so is prevention and education. West Central Behavioral Health is stepping up its ability to educate the community about illness and wellness--to improve the overall health and productivity of Dorchester.

We are honored and pleased to have the Town of Dorchester joining us in our effort to protect and preserve the mental health of Dorchester. We urge you to contact us with any needs or suggestions on how we can work together to improve access, quality and outcomes of community mental health care in Dorchester.

Jesse D. Turner, Ph.D.

President/Chief Executive Officer

VITAL STATISTICS

DORCHESTER, N.H.

BIRTHS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Lebanon, N.H.	07-14-03	Annabelle Petra Danner	Tina Danner Aaron Danner

MARRIAGES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Groom/Bride</u>	<u>Residence</u>
06-21-03	Brandon E. Joslyn Sabrina S. Stone	Dorchester, N.H. Dorchester, N.H
07-13-03	William C. Kramer Marion A. Plant	Dorchester, NH Dorchester, NH

DEATHS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Barbara H. French	01-25-03	Dorchester, NH	Alfred Welch Harriett Hoxie
Walter H. Morgan	09-13-03	Plymouth, NH	R. Morgan Rose Hamel
Edith T. Gray	11-15-03	Dorchester, NH	William Trought Ada Ainscough

Summary of the Dorchester 2003 Town Meeting

The election of Town officials was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

Polls opened at 11:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

The remaining business was conducted on Saturday, March 15, 2003.

Article 1. To choose by nonpartisan ballot all necessary Town officers for the ensuing year.

Results of election as follows:

Selectman for three (3) years - John A. Cote - 44 votes

Treasurer for one (1) year - Brian A. Howe - 32 votes

Tax Collector for one (1) year - Nancy Drowne (Chantler) - 45 votes

Town Clerk for one (1) year - Brenda Howe - 53 votes

Trustee of Trust Fund for 3 years - Brenda Howe - 51 votes

Auditors for 1 year - Martha L. Walker - 52 votes

Cindy Azotea - 50 votes

Cemetery Trustee for 3 years - Louis Delsart - 3 votes

Brenda Howe - 2 votes

Martha Walker - 2 votes

Nancy Cote - 2 votes

Planning Board for 3 years vote for 2

David Morrill - 44 votes

Linda Landry - 44 votes

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to approve a raise in the Selectmen's salary from one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per year to one thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$1,800.00) per year.

Moderator read the article

Motion to put on the floor - John Franz Seconded - John A. Cote

John Franz spoke in favor of the Article

Opened for discussion

Moved by moderator, seconded by John Franz

Article read

Article 2 PASSED as read

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the establishment of a Conservation Commission to have responsibility for the proper utilization and protection of the Town's natural resources and protection of the Town's watershed resources. A commission shall consist of three (3) members, appointed for terms of one, two, or three years, so that the terms of one third of the members will expire each year, and their successor shall be appointed for terms of three years each. The commission is to have the full powers and duties authorized by RSA 36A.

Moderator read the article

Motion to put on the floor - Robert R. Estabrook Seconded - John Franz

Opened for discussion

John Franz- explained the need for a Conservation Commission

Jay Legg- asked if it would affect building permits

John Franz - replied

Moved by moderator

Article read

Article 3 PASSED as read

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirty-six thousand, six hundred twenty dollars (\$236,620.00), to defray Town Charges.

Moderator read the article

Motion to put on the floor - John Franz Seconded - Robert Estabrook

Opened for discussion

John Franz- spoke

No other discussion

Moved by moderator

Article read

Article 4 PASSED as read

Article 5. To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Moderator read the article

Linda Landry talked about changes in the State Building Code

Jay Legg - asked about town inspectors

John Franz- talked about "No Child Left Behind" programs, also that the Town will be getting computers.

Mike Landry-talked about the school budget committee and encouraged people to attend meetings.

Darlene Oaks- asked about police protection

John Franz-explained the Selectmen's efforts in that regard

Several other people spoke in response to the Selectmen's efforts.

Jay Legg, Forest Fire Warden: Reminded people that there is no more burning of trash in barrels.

Robert Estabrook presented awards to:

John A. Cote and George Conkey II as - MASTER ROAD SCHOLARS
Delbert (Gene) Pratt for long service as Tax Collector

Marilyn Pratt for service as Deputy Tax Collector

Motion to Adjourn by Robert Estabrook, seconded by Cheryl Legg

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

Submitted by Brenda Howe, Town Clerk of Dorchester NH



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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

IN ANY EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL



911



F.A.S.T. SQUAD: 448-1212

POLICE: State Police - 1-800-525-5555
State Police - (Troop F) 271-1170

Grafton County Sheriff's Dept. - 1-800-552-0393

Dorchester Highway Department

786-2385



Town of Dorchester
804 River Road
Dorchester, NH 03266

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